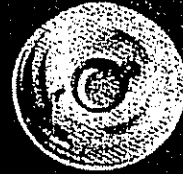
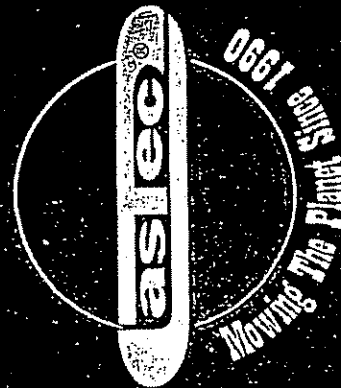
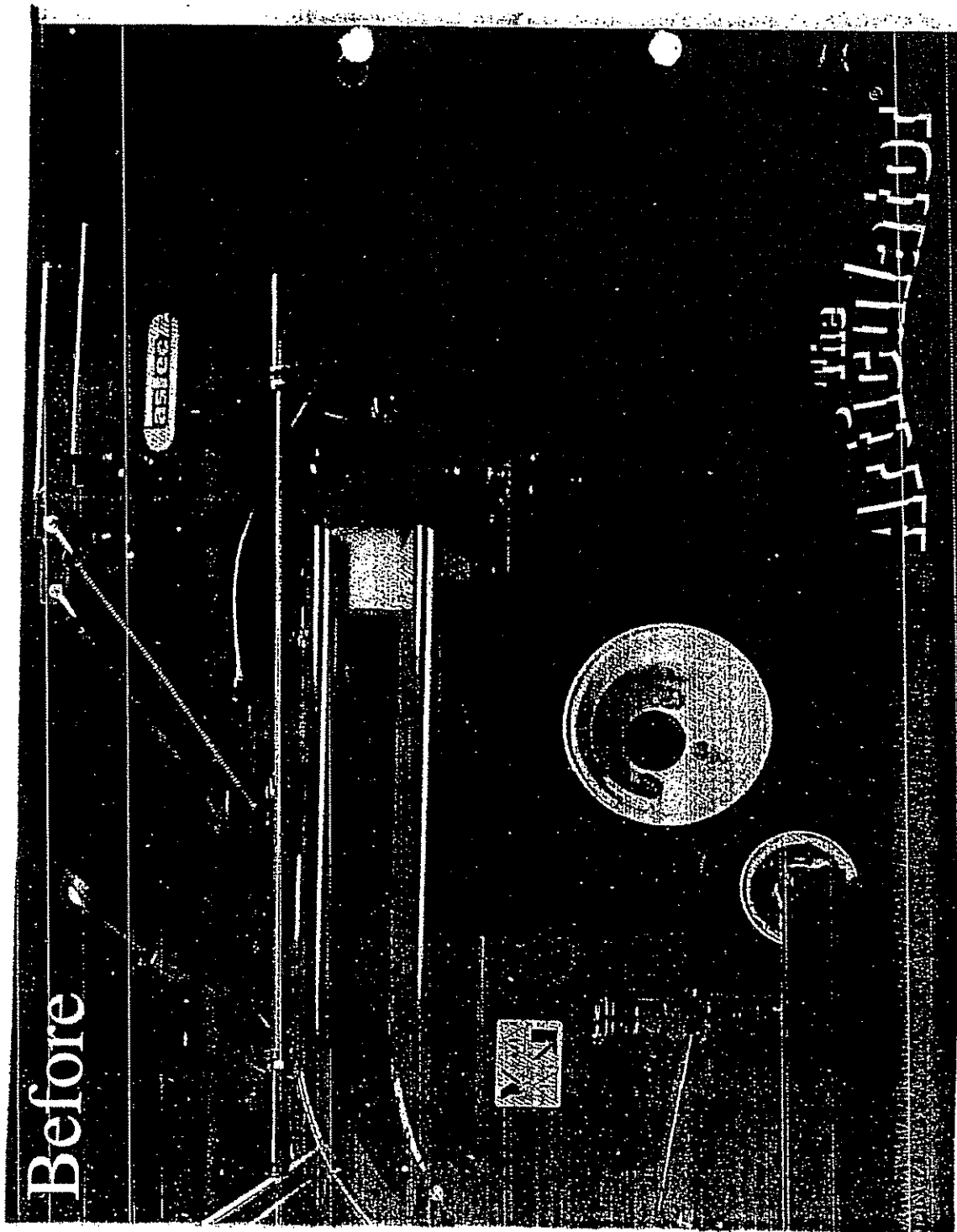


# Boldly Mow Where No Man Has Gone Before

The 325E Articulator defies comparison to any other mower. Defies comparison of *stability* born of its low center of gravity, of *cut quality* created by three fully articulating 25" decks in its 72" cutting path, of *flexibility* resulting from both walking *and* riding controls, and of *operator comfort* through the innovation of hand and foot control from the seat. Amazing things happen when you choose to take a different path. Come and join us on our journey.





# If Mowing Grass Was A Race This Is The Only View Our Competitors Would Ever Have

LasTec has been building mowers for the high-end golf industry since 1990. All LasTec equipment is sold and serviced through a select group of turf dealers around the world. If you would like to find out more about the entire Articulator line of turf equipment, call the factory for the dealer nearest you.

72" Cutting Width  
1" to 4" Cutting Heights  
Three 25" Articulating Decks  
Complete Set of Walking Controls  
Dual Hand & Foot Riding Controls  
Hydrostatic Drive with Dual Oil Cooler  
22 HP Kohler Command Engine  
Patent Pending Belt Drive System  
Headlights with Hazard Flashers  
Foam-Filled Deck Gauge Wheels  
Dual 5 Gallon Fuel Tanks



Manufactured by LasTec Inc. 7865 N CR 100E Lizton, IN 46149 Voice (317) 892-4444 Fax (317) 892-4188  
Patents Pending All Specifications subject to change without notice Printed in the USA



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/546,145 04/10/00 BEDNAR

R 7016R-000015

EXAMINER

PM82/0227

HARNES DICKEY & PIERCE PLC  
PO BOX 828  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48303.


PATENT OFFICE PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED:

02/27/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 09/548,145	Applicant(s) Bednar	
	Examiner Robert Pazuto	Group Art Unit 3671	

☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_

☐ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

**Disposition of Claims**

☒ Claim(s) 1 and 21-31 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1 and 21-31 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

**Attachment(s)**

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 6

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

Application/Control Number: 09/546,145

Page 2

Art Unit: 3671

#### DETAILED ACTION

##### *Double Patenting*

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 1 and 21-31 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,047,530. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both the patent and the instant application lend themselves to a gang-type mower having a plurality of deck assemblies with a roller supporting and extending substantially the width of the decks.

JA - 0306

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Application/Control Number: 09/546,145


Page 3

Art Unit: 3671

*Conclusion*

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Robert Pezzuto at telephone number (703) 308-1012. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, Eastern Standard Time.

4. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr Thomas B Will, can be reached on (703) 308-3870. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-7687

  
Robert Pezzuto  
Art Unit 3671  
February 27, 2001

JA - 0307

3671

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



## TRANSMITTAL FORM

Do not remove for all correspondence after initial filing

Application Number	09/546,145
Filing Date	April 10, 2000
First Named Inventor	Richard D. Bednar, et al.
Group Art Unit	3671
Examiner Name	
Total Number of Pages In This Submission	4
Attorney Docket Number	7016R-000015/COA

## ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Acknowledgement
Remarks: The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.		

RECEIVED

MAR 07 2001

PTO 3500 MAIL ROOM

## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.
Signature	<i>David P. Utykowski</i>
Date	February 27, 2001

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this date: February 27, 2001	
Typed or printed name	David P. Utykowski
Signature	<i>David P. Utykowski</i>
Date	February 27, 2001

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

JA - 0308





#8/C  
PATENT 3/9/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 08/546,145  
Filing Date: April 10, 2000  
Applicant: Richard D. Bednar, et al.  
Group Art Unit: 3671  
Examiner: Not assigned yet  
Title: GANG-TYPE ROTARY  
LAWN MOWER  
Attorney Docket: 7016R-000015/COA

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MAR 07 2001

PRELIMINARY  
AMENDMENT

TO 3600 MAIL ROOM

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request a change to the TITLE of the invention. Please amend the above-identified application specification as follows. Applicants include herewith an Attachment for Specification Amendments showing amendments in which underlines indicate insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the TITLE of the invention as follows:

GANG-TYPE ROTARY LAWN MOWER WITH REAR ROLLER

JA - 0309

CONCLUSION

Prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 27, 2001  
Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.  
P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303  
(248) 641-1600

By: David P. Utyanski  
David P. Utyanski, Reg. No. 39,052  
Attorney for Applicants

DPU/vle

Serial No. 09/546,145

Page 2

JA - 0310

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**ATTACHMENT FOR SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS**  
U.S. Serial No. 09/546,145, Filed April 10, 2000  
Attorney Docket No. 7016R-000015/COA  
(underlines indicate insertions and brackets indicate deletions)

The TITLE of the invention has been amended as follows:

GANG-TYPE ROTARY LAWN MOWER WITH REAR ROLLER

Serial No. 09/546,145

Page 3

JA - 0311

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box.

HDP/SB/21 based on PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)		Application Number	09/546,145
		Filing Date	April 10, 2000
		First Named Inventor	Richard D. Bednar
		Group Art Unit	3871
		Examiner Name	Robert Pezzuto
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	11	Attorney Docket Number	7016R-000015COA

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/Declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): 2-page copy of Assignment previously filed and return postcard
Remarks	The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.	
<div style="text-align: right;"> <b>RECEIVED</b>          SEP 04 2001       </div>		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm or Individual name	Hamess, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name Joseph M. Lafata Donald G. Walker	Reg. No. 37166 44390
Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>		
Date	Aug 21, 2001		

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.	
Typed or printed name	Joseph M. Lafata, Reg. No. 37166
Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>
Date	Aug 21, 2001

JA - 0312

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

<b>FEE TRANSMITTAL</b> <b>for FY 2001</b> <small>Patent fees are subject to annual revision.</small>		<b>Complete If Known</b>	
		Application Number: 03/546,145 Filing Date: April 10, 2000 First Named Inventor: Richard D. Badner Examiner Name: Robert Pecorella Group / Art Unit: 3671 Attorney Docket No.: 7016R-000015COA	<b>RECEIVED</b> SEP 04 2007
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)</b> 1000			

<b>METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)</b> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over payments to: Deposit Account Number: 08-0750 Deposit Account Name: Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.18 and 1.17 <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27		<b>3. ADDITIONAL FEES</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Fee Code</th> <th>Large Entity (\$)</th> <th>Small Entity (\$)</th> <th>Fee Description</th> <th>Fee Paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>105</td><td>130</td><td>205</td><td>Burcharge - late filing fee or oath</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>127</td><td>50</td><td>227</td><td>Burcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>138</td><td>130</td><td>130</td><td>Non-English specification</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>147</td><td>2,520</td><td>147</td><td>For filing a request for reexamination</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>112</td><td>920*</td><td>112</td><td>Requesting publication of SRI prior to Examiner action</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>113</td><td>1,840*</td><td>113</td><td>Requesting publication of SRI after Examiner action</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>118</td><td>110</td><td>218</td><td>Extension for reply within first month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>119</td><td>320</td><td>218</td><td>Extension for reply within second month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>117</td><td>800</td><td>217</td><td>Extension for reply within third month</td><td>800</td></tr> <tr><td>116</td><td>1,390</td><td>216</td><td>Extension for reply within fourth month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>128</td><td>1,860</td><td>228</td><td>Extension for reply within fifth month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>119</td><td>310</td><td>219</td><td>Notice of Appeal</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>120</td><td>310</td><td>220</td><td>Filing a brief in support of an appeal</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>121</td><td>270</td><td>221</td><td>Request for oral hearing</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>138</td><td>1,510</td><td>138</td><td>Petition to institute a public use proceeding</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>140</td><td>110</td><td>240</td><td>Petition to revive - unavoidable</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>141</td><td>1,240</td><td>241</td><td>Petition to revive - unintentional</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>142</td><td>1,240</td><td>242</td><td>Utility issue fee (or release)</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>143</td><td>440</td><td>243</td><td>Design issue fee</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>144</td><td>800</td><td>244</td><td>Plant issue fee</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>122</td><td>130</td><td>122</td><td>Petitions to the Commissioner</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>123</td><td>130</td><td>123</td><td>Petitions related to provisional applications</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>125</td><td>180</td><td>125</td><td>Submission of information Disclosure Sheet</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>581</td><td>40</td><td>581</td><td>Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>145</td><td>710</td><td>245</td><td>Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>148</td><td>710</td><td>248</td><td>For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>179</td><td>710</td><td>278</td><td>Request for Continued Examination (RCE)</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>108</td><td>900</td><td>108</td><td>Request for expedited examination of a design application</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Fee Code	Large Entity (\$)	Small Entity (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid	105	130	205	Burcharge - late filing fee or oath		127	50	227	Burcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet		138	130	130	Non-English specification		147	2,520	147	For filing a request for reexamination		112	920*	112	Requesting publication of SRI prior to Examiner action		113	1,840*	113	Requesting publication of SRI after Examiner action		118	110	218	Extension for reply within first month		119	320	218	Extension for reply within second month		117	800	217	Extension for reply within third month	800	116	1,390	216	Extension for reply within fourth month		128	1,860	228	Extension for reply within fifth month		119	310	219	Notice of Appeal		120	310	220	Filing a brief in support of an appeal		121	270	221	Request for oral hearing		138	1,510	138	Petition to institute a public use proceeding		140	110	240	Petition to revive - unavoidable		141	1,240	241	Petition to revive - unintentional		142	1,240	242	Utility issue fee (or release)		143	440	243	Design issue fee		144	800	244	Plant issue fee		122	130	122	Petitions to the Commissioner		123	130	123	Petitions related to provisional applications		125	180	125	Submission of information Disclosure Sheet		581	40	581	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)		145	710	245	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))		148	710	248	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))		179	710	278	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)		108	900	108	Request for expedited examination of a design application	
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<b>1. BASIC FILING FEE</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Large Entity</th> <th>Small Entity</th> <th>Fee Description</th> <th>Fee Paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>101</td><td>710</td><td>Utility filing fee</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>106</td><td>320</td><td>Design filing fee</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>107</td><td>490</td><td>Plant filing fee</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>108</td><td>710</td><td>Release filing fee</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>114</td><td>150</td><td>Provisional filing fee</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Large Entity	Small Entity	Fee Description	Fee Paid	101	710	Utility filing fee		106	320	Design filing fee		107	490	Plant filing fee		108	710	Release filing fee		114	150	Provisional filing fee		<b>2. SUBTOTAL (1)</b> (\$0)																																																																																																																										
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<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> Name (Print/Type): Joseph M. Leluts Signature: <i>Joseph M. Leluts</i>		<b>Registration No. Attorney/Agent:</b> 37105 Telephone: (248) 641-1500 Date: Aug 21, 2001	
--	--	--	--

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-503B.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

JA - 0313



#10/  
Gibson  
9/6/01

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/546,145  
Filing Date: April 10, 2000  
Applicant: Richard D. Bednar  
Group Art Unit: 3671  
Examiner: Robert Pezzuto  
Title: GANG-TYPE ROTARY LAWN MOWER  
WITH REAR ROLLER  
Attorney Docket: 7016R-000015COA

RECEIVED

SEP 04 2001

TO 3600 MAIL ROOM

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a three (3) month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action. Applicant has included a Fee Transmittal with this response for such extension of time.

In response to the Office Action mailed February 27, 2001, please consider the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer and the remarks set forth below.

08/28/2001 08:00:01 00000031 09546145  
21 FC:117 890.00 DP

JA - 0314

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**DOUBLE PATENTING**

Claims 1 and 21-31 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,047,530.

Notwithstanding, Applicant submits, attached to this Response, a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.321(c) which overcomes each of the instant rejections based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground. Applicant's Terminal Disclaimer simply serves the statutory function of removing the rejections of double patenting and raises neither a presumption nor an estoppel as to the merits of the Examiner's rejection. Applicant's Terminal Disclaimer should *not* be considered as an admission, acquiescence or estoppel as to the merits of the rejection and doing so would be improper. *Ortho Pharmaceutical Corp. v Smith*, 22 U.S.P.Q.2D 1119, 1124 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *Quad Envtl. Tech. Corp. v Union Sanitary Dist.*, 20 U.S.P.Q.2D 1392 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

All of the grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding office action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600. Prompt and favorable consideration of this response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Aug 21, 2001

By:   
Joseph M. Lafata, Reg. No. 37166  
Donald G. Walker, Reg. No. 44390

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
Phone: (248) 641-1600  
Telefacsimile: (248) 641-1600  
DGW/me

Serial No. 09/546,145

Page 3

JA - 0316



Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box →

HDP/8B/21 based on PTO/8B/21 (08-00)

<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)		Application Number	09/548,145
		Filing Date	April 10, 2000
		First Named Inventor	Richard D. Bednar
		Group Art Unit	3671
		Examiner Name	Robert Pozzuto
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	11	Attorney Docket Number	7016R-000015COA

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): 2-page copy of Assignment previously filed and return postcard.
Remarks	The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.	
<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">RECEIVED</div> <div style="text-align: right;">SEP 04 2001</div>		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name Joseph M. Lafata Donald G. Walker	Reg. No. 37166 44390
Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>		
Date	Aug 21, 2001		

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.			
Typed or printed name	Joseph M. Lafata, Reg. No. 37166	Date	Aug 21, 2001
Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>		

JA - 0317



#11  
**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/546,145  
Filing Date: April 10, 2000  
Applicant: Richard D. Bednar  
Group Art Unit: 3671  
Examiner: Robert Pezzuto  
Title: GANG-TYPE ROTARY LAWN MOWER  
WITH REAR ROLLER  
Attorney Docket: 7016R-000015COA

*Terminal  
Disclaimers  
9/27/01  
Jan*

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**TERMINAL DISCLAIMER**

RANSOMES AMERICA CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation, represents that it is the Assignee of the above-identified U.S. Patent Application and of U.S. Patent No. 6,047,530, which issued on April 11, 2000 based on U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/794,141 filed February 3, 1997. The present application and the earlier application, which matured into the above-mentioned U.S. patent, are related, and the ownership of these two applications and the resulting patent(s) by RANSOMES AMERICA CORPORATION is evidenced at Reel 8433, Frame 0424 and by a copy of the assignment attached to this Terminal Disclaimer.

RANSOMES AMERICA CORPORATION hereby disclaims the terminal part of any patent granted on Application Serial No. 09/546,145 which would extend beyond the expiration date of any patents granted on Application Serial No. 08/794,141, and hereby agrees that any patent granted on Application Serial No. 09/546,145 shall be enforceable only for and during such period that the legal title to such patent shall be the same as the legal title to each patent granted on Application Serial No. 08/794,141. This agreement is to run with any patent granted on Application Serial No. 09/546,145 and is to be binding upon the grantee, its successor and assigns.


06/26/2001 ECH001 00000001 00000001  
32 FC:148 110.00 00

JA - 0318

Further, I state that by this instrument, RANSOMES AMERICA CORPORATION does not disclaim any terminal part of any patent granted on the above-identified pending patent application prior to the expiration date of the full statutory term or any extended term as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer of any patent to issue from U.S. Patent No. 6,047,530 in the event that this patent later: (1) expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee; (2) is held unenforceable; (3) is found invalid; (4) is statutorily disclaimed in whole or is terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321(a); (5) has all claims cancelled by a reexamination certificate; or (6) is otherwise terminated prior to the expiration of its statutory term or any extended term as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer, except for the separation of legal title as stated above.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that any such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: Aug 21, 2001

  
Joseph M. Lafata, Reg. No. 37168  
Applicants Attorney

Attachment: 2-Page Assignment

Serial No. 09/546,145

Page 2

JA - 0319

JUL 02 '01 11:54 FR CANTWELL PAXTON INC 723 415 1618 TO 12485418278

P.08

61305 U.S. PTO

08/794141



02/03/97

A S S I G N M E N T

For and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar

(\$1.00) to me:

Richard D. Bednar  
N6804 Shorewood Hills Rd.  
Lake Mills, Wisconsin 53551

paid by Ransomes America Corporation (hereinafter referred to as "Assignee"), a Delaware corporation having its principal place of business at:

900 North 21st Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-2409

and for other valuable and sufficient consideration, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, I hereby sell, assign and convey, unto Assignee, its successors and assigns, my entire right, title and interest -

(1) in and to an invention entitled "GANG-TYPE ROTARY LAWN MOWER" for which I have executed a United States patent application on even date herewith;

(2) in and to said United States application, in and to all other patent applications (including divisional, continuation, continuation-in-part, §111(b) provisional, §111(a), and reissue applications) based upon said invention, and in and to the patent or patents to be granted thereon, including reissues thereof, if any, to the full end of the term or terms for which said patent or patents may be granted;

(3) in and to all patent applications on said invention now or hereafter filed in countries foreign to the United States of America, and in and to any and all patents

PATENT

RISE: 8433 FRAME: 0425

JA-0320

JUL 02 '01 11:54 FR CANTWELL PAXTON INC 283 415 1618 TO 12465418270 P.09

granted on said applications to the full and of the terms for which said patents may be granted; and

(4) under the International Convention in respect to the United States patent application and agree that any patent applications of any foreign countries which may be filed shall be filed in the name of my Assignee with a claim to priority based on said United States application.

And I hereby agree that I will, upon demand of Assignee, its successors or assigns, and without further consideration to me, execute any and all papers that may be necessary, or deemed by Assignee, its successors or assigns, to be necessary, to a complete fulfillment of the intent and purposes of this Assignment, it being understood that any expense incident to the execution of such papers shall be paid by Assignee, its successors and assigns, and not by me.

And the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks of the United States is hereby authorized and requested to issue the said United States patent or patents to Assignee.

Date: 1-31-77

Richard D. Bednar  
Richard D. Bednar

-2-

RECORDED: 02/03/1997

PATENT  
RHEIL 8453 FRAMES 0426

\*\* TOTAL PAGE.09 \*\*

JA - 0321

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No. 09/546,145	Applicant(s) Badnar
	Examiner Robert E Pezzuto	Art Unit 3671

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed August 24, 2001
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 21-31, renumbered 1-12, respectively.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are acceptable as formal drawings.
4. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(e)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

5. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE FOR SUBMITTING NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS, OR A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION. This three-month period for complying with the REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL is extendable under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

6. ☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
7. ☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS
  - (a) ☒ Including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) ☐ Including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the examiner.
  - (c) ☐ Including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_


Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

8. ☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-882)</li> <li>3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>6 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449), Paper No(s) _____</li> <li>7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material</li> <li>9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li> <li>4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____</li> <li>5 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> </ol>
--	--

  
 ROBERT E. PEZZUTO  
 PRIMARY EXAMINER  
 ART UNIT 3671



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

# NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

PM82/0928

HARNES DICKY & PIERCE PLC  
PO BOX 828  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48303

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/546,145	04/10/00	012	PEZZUTO, R 3671	09/28/01
First Named Applicant BEDNAR,	35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days.			
TITLE OF INVENTION GANG-TYPE ROTARY LAWN MOWER WITH REAR ROLLER				

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPL. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
2 7016R-000015	056-006.000	M75	UTILITY	NO	\$1240.00	12/28/01

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT.  
~~PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.~~

THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.

## HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.  
If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

- Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.
- All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

TOL-65 (REV. 10-90) Approved for use through 06/30/99. (0681-0023)

JA - 0323



FORM PTO 548 (REV. 01-97)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE-Patent and Trademark Office

Application No.

07/546145

NOTICE OF DRAFTERPERSON'S  
PATENT DRAWING REVIEWThe drawing filed (insert date) 4/10/00A. ☒ not objected to by the Drafterperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152.B. ☒ objected to by this Drafterperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152 as indicated below. The Examiner will require submission of new, corrected drawings when necessary. Corrected drawings must be submitted according to the instructions on the back of this notice.1. DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.84(a): Acceptable categories of drawings:  
Black ink. Color.☐ Color drawing are not acceptable until petition is granted.

Fig.(s) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Pencil and non black ink is not permitted. Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. PHOTOGRAPHS. 37 CFR 1.84(b)

☐ Photographs are not acceptable until petition is granted.☐ 3 full-tone sets are required. Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_☐ Photographs not properly mounted (must be on board or

photographic double-weight paper). Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Poor quality (half-tone). Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. TYPE OF PAPER. 37 CFR 1.84(c)

☐ Paper not flexible, strong, white and durable.

Fig.(s) \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Erasures, alterations, overwritings, interlineations,

folds, copy machine marks not acceptable. (See item 1-6)

☐ Mylar, vellum paper is not acceptable (too thin).

Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. SIZE OF PAPER. 37 CFR 1.84(f): Acceptable sizes:

☐ 21.0 cm by 29.7 cm (DIN size A4)☐ 21.6 cm by 27.9 cm (8 1/2 x 11 inches)☐ All drawings sheets not the same size.

Sheet(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. MARGINS. 37 CFR 1.84(g): Acceptable margins:

Top 2.5 cm Left 2.5 cm Right 1.5 cm Bottom 1.0 cm

SIZE: A4 Size

Top 2.5 cm Left 2.5 cm Right 1.5 cm Bottom 1.0 cm

SIZE: 8 1/2 x 11

☒ Margins not acceptable. Fig(s) 3-5☒ Top (T) ☒ Left (L)☒ Right (R) ☐ Bottom (B)

## 6. VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(h)

REMARKER: Specification may require revision to

correspond to drawing changes.

☐ Views connected by projection lines or lead lines.

Fig.(s) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Partial views. 37 CFR 1.84(h)(2)☐ Brackets needed to show figure as one entity.

Fig.(s) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Views not labeled separately or properly.

Fig.(s) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Enlarged view not labeled separately or properly.

Fig.(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. SECTIONAL VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(k)(3)

☐ Hatching not indicated for sectional portions of an object.

Fig.(s) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Sectional designation should be noted with Arabic or

Roman numbers. Fig.(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## 8. ARRANGEMENT OF VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(i)

☐ Words do not appear on a horizontal, left-to-right fashion when

page is either upright or turned, so that the top becomes the right

side, except for graphs. Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Views not on the same plane on drawing sheet. Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## 9. SCALE. 37 CFR 1.84(k)

☐ Scale not large enough to show mechanism with simplicity.

when drawing is reduced in size to two-thirds in reproduction.

Fig.(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. CHARACTER OF LINES, NUMBERS, &amp; LETTERS. 37 CFR 1.84(j)

☒ Lines, numbers & letters not uniformly thick and well defined.

clean, durable and black (poor line quality). (See item 1-6)

Fig.(s) 1-6

## 11. SHADING. 37 CFR 1.84(m)

☐ Solid black areas pale. Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_☐ Solid black shading not permitted. Fig(s) 1-6☐ Shade lines, pale, rough and blurred. Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## 12. NUMBERS, LETTERS, &amp; REFERENCE CHARACTERS. 37 CFR 1.84(p)

☒ Numbers and reference characters not plain and legible.Fig(s) 1-6☒ Figure legends are poor. Fig(s) 1-6☐ Numbers and reference characters not oriented in the same

direction as the view. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(3) Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_

☒ English alphabet not used. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(3) Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_☒ Numbers, letters and reference characters must be at least32 cm (1/8 inch) in height. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(3) Fig(s) 1-6

## 13. LEAD LINES. 37 CFR 1.84(q)

☐ Lead lines cross each other. Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_☐ Lead lines missing. Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## 14. NUMBERING OF SHEETS OF DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.84(i)

☐ Sheets not numbered consecutively, and in Arabic numerals

beginning with number 1. Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## 15. NUMBERING OF VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(u)

☐ Views not numbered consecutively, and in Arabic numerals,

beginning with number 1. Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## 16. CORRECTIONS. 37 CFR 1.84(w)

☐ Corrections not made from PTO-548 dated \_\_\_\_\_

## 17. DESIGN DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.152

☐ Surface shading shown not appropriate. Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_☐ Solid black shading not used for color contrast.

Fig(s) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS

REVIEWER

DATE

ATTACHMENT TO PAPER NO.

PTO COPY

JA - 0324



6/18/01

The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading, "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.

#### INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

##### 1. Correction of Informalities - 37 CFR 1.85

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

##### 2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made, other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.


##### Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

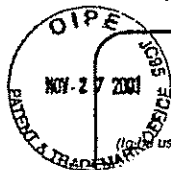
Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.

06/01/01

JA - 0325

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → 

HDP/SE-21 Based on PTO/SE-21 (08-00)



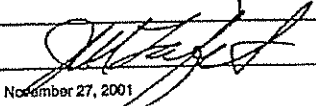
# TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

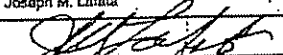
Application Number	09/548,145
Filing Date	April 10, 2000
First Named Inventor	Richard D. Bednar
Group Art Unit	3671
Examiner Name	R. Pezzuto
Attorney Docket Number	7016R-000015COA
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	6

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below) 5 Pages of Formal Drawings showing Fig. 1-5; Postcard.
Remarks		The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0760.

## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name	Joseph M. Lafata	Reg. No.	37,168
Signature					
Date	November 27, 2001				

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.			
Typed or printed name	Joseph M. Lafata	Date	November 27, 2001
Signature			

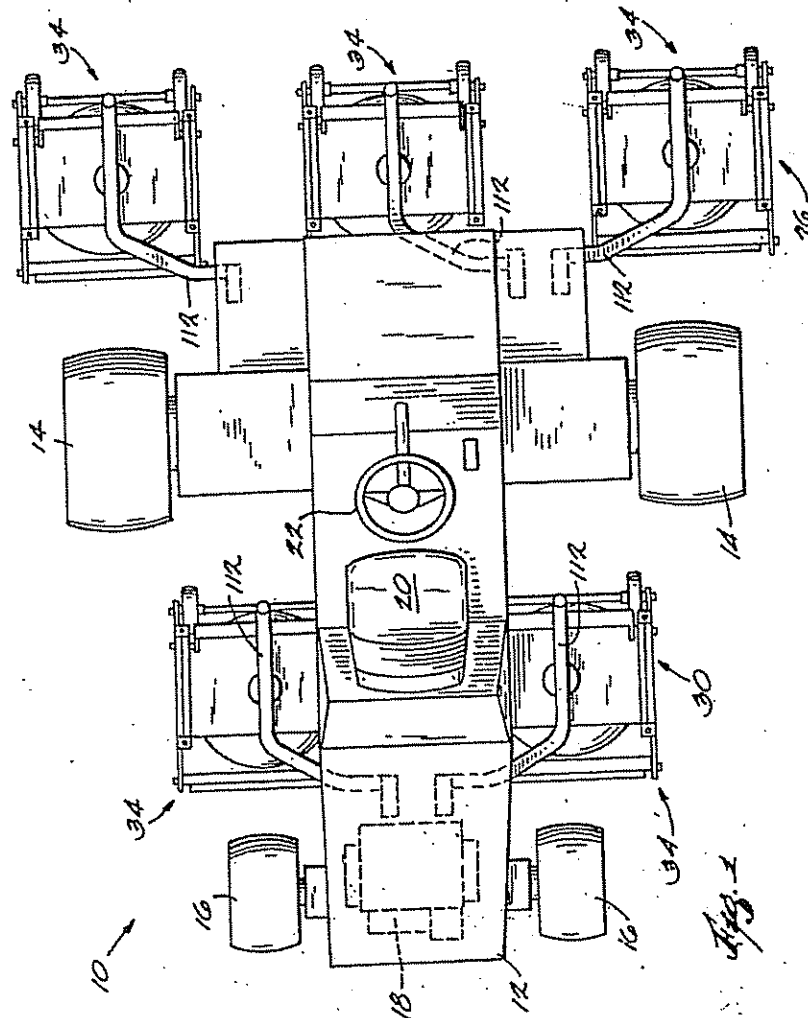
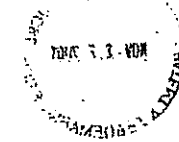
09/01  
JA - 0326

Title: GANG-~~TYPE~~ PE ROTARY LAWN MOWER WITH REAR ROLLER  
 Inventor: Richard D. Bed... Group Art Unit: 3671, Examiner: R. Pezzi, Serial No. 09/546,145  
 Filed: 04-10-00, Notice of Allowance: 09-28-01, Batch No. M75, Atty. Ref. No.: 7016R-0015COA

09546145

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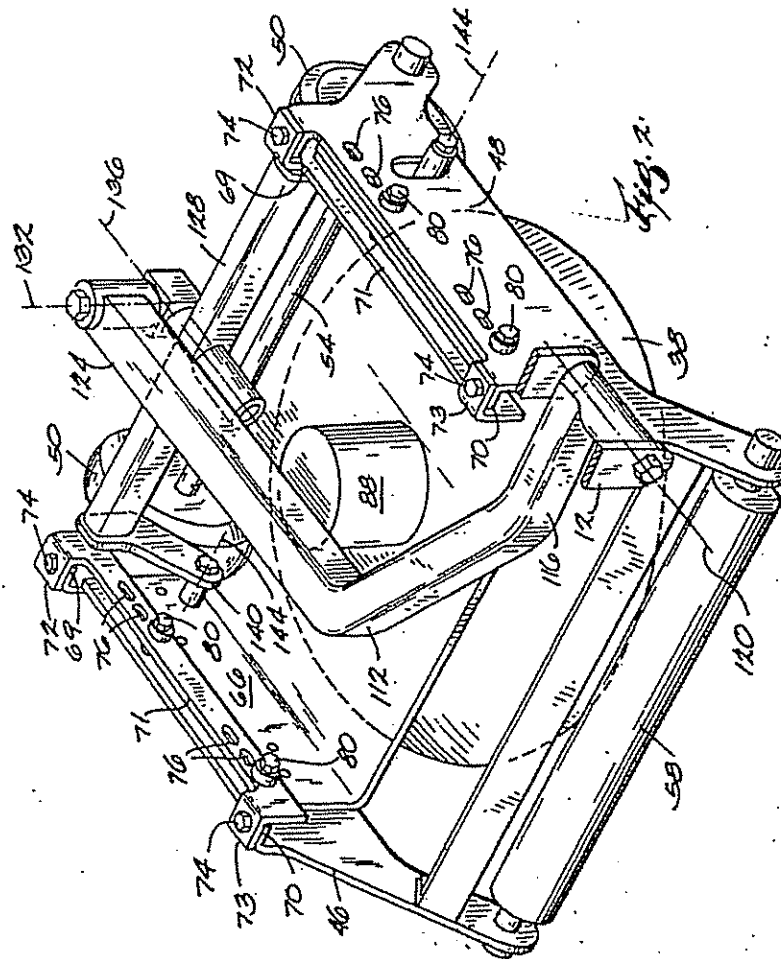
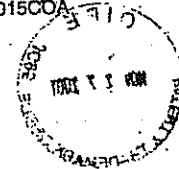
6336311



JA - 0327

Title: GANG-TYPE ROTARY LAWN MOWER WITH REAR ROLLER  
Inventor: Richard D. Beda Group Art Unit: 3671, Examiner: R. Pezzi Serial No. 09/546,145  
Filed: 04-10-00, Notice of Allowance: 09-28-01, Batch No. M75, Atty. Ref. No.: 7016R-0015COA

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JA - 0328



Title: GANG-TYPE ROTARY LAWN MOWER WITH REAR ROLLER  
Inventor: Richard D. Bedt, Group Art Unit: 3671, Examiner: R. Pezzi, Serial No. 09/546,145  
Filed: 04-10-00, Notice of Allowance: 09-28-01, Batch No. M75, Atty. Ref. No.: 7016R-0015COA

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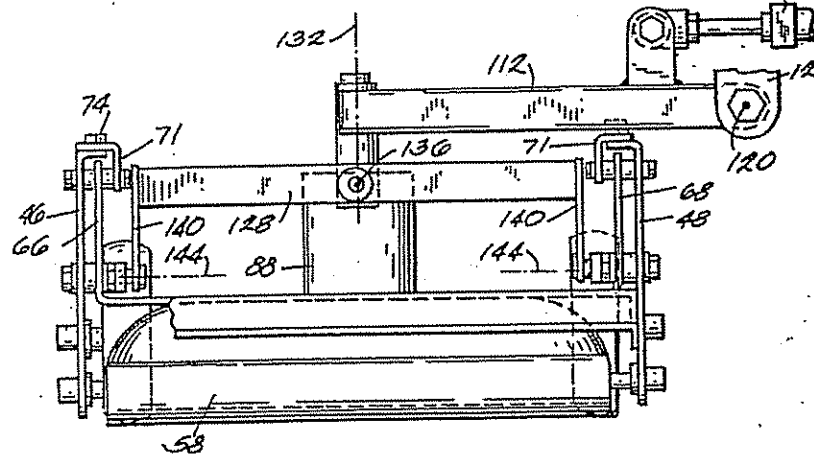
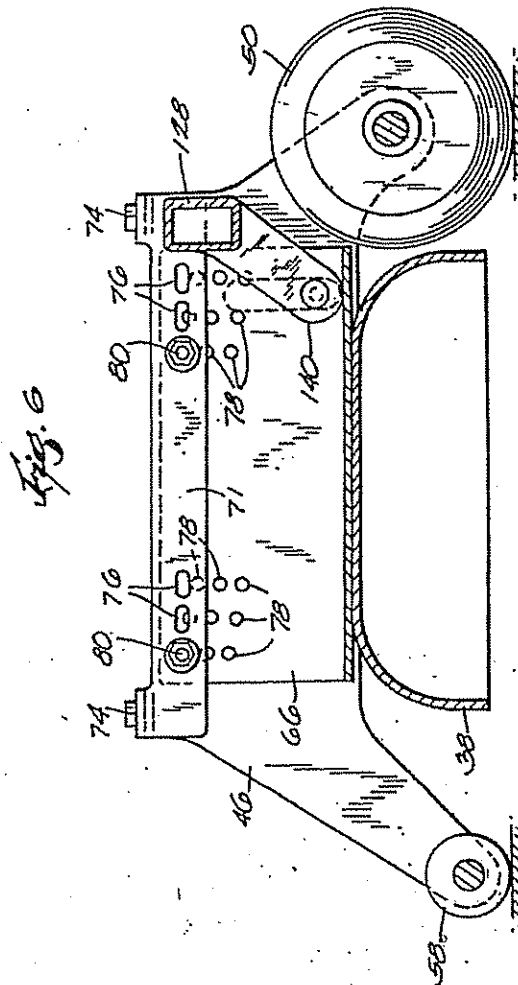


Fig. 5

JA - 0330

Title: GANG-TYPE ROTARY LAWN MOWER WITH REAR ROLLER  
 Inventor: Richard D. Bedna Group Art Unit: 3671, Examiner: R. Pezzuto Serial No. 09/546,145  
 Filed: 04-10-00, Notice of Allowance: 09-28-01, Batch No. M75, Atty. Ref. No.: 7016R-0015CO/AR

5/5



JA - 0331

PART B—ISSUE FEE TRANSMITTAL			
<p><b>MAILING INSTRUCTIONS:</b> This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE. Blocks 1 through 4 should be completed where appropriate. All correspondence including the issue fee Receipt, the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.</p> <p>CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Please Legibly mark-up with any corrections or use Block 1)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PM82/0928</p> <p>HARNESS DICKEY &amp; PIERCE PLC PO BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48303</p>		<p>Note: The certificate of mailing below can only be used for domestic mailings of the Issue Fee Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper must be assigned or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing.</p> <p><b>Certificate of Mailing</b></p> <p>I hereby certify that this Issue Fee Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail transportation addressed to the Director of Patents and Trademarks at the date indicated below.</p> <p>Joseph M. Lafata _____ (Signature) (Date) 11/28/01</p>	
APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT
09/546,145	04/10/00	012	PEZZUTO, R 3671 09/28/01
First Named Applicant	35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days.		
BEDNAR,			
TITLE OF INVENTION: GANG-TYPE ROTARY LAWN MOWER WITH REAR ROLLER			
ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPL. TYPE
2 7016R-000015	056-006.000	M75	UTILITY
SMALL ENTITY		FEE DUE	DATE DUE
NO		\$1240.00	12/28/01
<p>1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363). Use of PTO form(s) and Customer Number are recommended, but not required.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Change of correspondence address [or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB(122)] attached.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> "Fee Address" Indication [or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB(47)] attached.</p> <p>2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.</p> <p>Harness, Dickey &amp; Pierce, PLLC</p>			
<p>3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type).</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. Inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment has been previously submitted to the PTO or is being submitted under separate cover. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.</p> <p>(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE: RANSOMES AMERICA CORPORATION</p> <p>(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY &amp; STATE OR COUNTRY) Lincoln, Nebraska</p> <p>Please check the appropriate assignee category indicated below (will not be printed on the patent)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> corporation or other private group entity <input type="checkbox"/> government</p>			
<p>4a. The following fees are enclosed (make check payable to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Issue Fee</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advance Order - # of Copies 10</p> <p>4b. The following fees or deficiency in these fees should be charged to:</p> <p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NUMBER 08-0750</p> <p>(ENCLOSE AN EXTRA COPY OF THIS FORM)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Issue Fee</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advance Order - # of Copies 10</p>			
<p>The COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS IS requested to apply the Issue Fee to the application identified above.</p> <p>(Authorized Signature) _____ (Date) 11/28/01</p> <p>NOTE: The Issue Fee will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant, a registered attorney or agent, or the designee or other party of interest as shown by the records of the Patent and Trademark Office.</p> <p>Burdens Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending on the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS OFFICE. SEND FEES AND THIS FORM TO: Box Issue Fee, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231</p> <p>Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.</p>			
<p>TRANSMIT THIS FORM WITH FEE</p> <p>Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</p>			



PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Effective December 29, 1999					Application or Docket Number <b>09 546145</b>	
<b>CLAIMS AS FILED - PART I</b>						
		(Column 1)	(Column 2)			
FOR		NUMBER FILED		NUMBER EXTRA		
BASIC FEE						
TOTAL CLAIMS		minus 20=				
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS		minus 3=				
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT						
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2						
<b>CLAIMS AS AMENDED - PART II</b>						
		(Column 1)	(Column 2)	(Column 3)		
AMENDMENT A		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR		PRESENT EXTRA
	Total	12	Minus	20		=
	Independent	3	Minus	3		=
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM					
AMENDMENT B		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR		PRESENT EXTRA
	Total		Minus			=
	Independent		Minus			=
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM					
AMENDMENT C		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR		PRESENT EXTRA
	Total		Minus			=
	Independent		Minus			=
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM					
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3. ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20." *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3." The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.						

SMALL ENTITY TYPE <input type="checkbox"/>		OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	FEE		RATE	FEE
	345.00	OR		690.00
X\$ 9=		OR	X\$18=	
X39=		OR	X78=	
+130=		OR	+260=	
TOTAL		OR	TOTAL	640

SMALL ENTITY TYPE <input type="checkbox"/>		OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$ 9=		OR	X\$18=	
X39=		OR	X78=	
+130=		OR	+260=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

SMALL ENTITY TYPE <input type="checkbox"/>		OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$ 9=		OR	X\$18=	
X39=		OR	X78=	
+130=		OR	+260=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

FORM PTG-875  
(Rev. 12/99)Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. GPO: 2000-443-132/20044

JA - 0333

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Effective October 1, 1996						Application or Doctel Number <b>794141</b>	
<b>CLAIMS AS FILED - PART I</b>							
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		SMALL ENTITY - OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA		RATE	FEE	RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE					385.00		770.00
TOTAL CLAIMS	20	minus 20 =		x\$11=		x\$22=	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	3	minus 3 =		x40=		x10=	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT				+130=		+250=	
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2				TOTAL		TOTAL	770.00
<b>CLAIMS AS AMENDED - PART II</b>							
(Column 1)		(Column 2)	(Column 3)	SMALL ENTITY - OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
Total	19	20	1	x\$11=		x\$22=	
Independent	6	3	3	x40=		x80=	
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				+130=		+250=	
				TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	
<b>AMENDMENT B</b>							
(Column 1)		(Column 2)	(Column 3)	SMALL ENTITY - OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
Total				x\$11=		x\$22=	
Independent				x40=		x80=	
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				+130=		+250=	
				TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	
<b>AMENDMENT C</b>							
(Column 1)		(Column 2)	(Column 3)	SMALL ENTITY - OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
Total				x\$11=		x\$22=	
Independent				x40=		x80=	
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				+130=		+250=	
				TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

\* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, enter "0" in column 3.  
 \* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".  
 \* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".  
 \* The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Form PTO-676  
 (Rev. 10/95)

U.S. Government Printing Office: 1995 - 473-249/9501

Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JA - 0334



## ISSUE SLIP STAPLE AREA (for additional cross references)

POSITION	INITIALS	ID NO.	DATE
FEE DETERMINATION	H.S.		04/19/02
O.I.P.E. CLASSIFIER		71022	4/25/02
FORMALITY REVIEW			6-13-00
RESPONSE FORMALITY REVIEW			

## INDEX OF CLAIMS

✓ ..... Rejected  
 u ..... Allowed  
 - (Through numeral) ..... Canceled  
 + ..... Restricted  
 N ..... Non-elected  
 I ..... Interference  
 A ..... Appeal  
 O ..... Objected

Claim	Date
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## PATENT APPLICATION



09546145

1c564 U.S. PTO

09/546145



04/10/00

APR 25 2007

INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTENTS

Date Received  
(Incl. C. of M.)  
or  
Date MailedDate Received  
(Incl. C. of M.)  
or  
Date Mailed

1. Application <i>Print papers.</i>	4/10/00	42.	
2. <i>Pre-Grant A</i>	7/5/00	43.	
3. <i>IDS</i>	7/31/00	44.	
4. <i>Pre-Grant B</i>	7/31/00	45.	
5. <i>Response (3)</i>	10-18-00	46.	
6. <i>IDS</i>	1-16-01	47.	
7. <i>Response (3)</i>	2-27-01	48.	
8. <i>Amendment C</i>	3/5/01	49.	
9. <i>Ext. of Time 3M</i>	8-24-01	50.	
10. <i>Response (Supp.)</i>	8-24-01	51.	
11. <i>Amendment D</i>	8-24-01	52.	
12. <i>Material Disclosure</i>	9/26/01	53.	
13. <i>Amendment E</i>	11/27/01	54.	
14.		55.	
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JC893 U.S. PRO  
 09/643697  
 08/23/00  
 56 6  
 Class Subclass  
 ISSUE CLASSIFICATION

PATENT NUMBER  
**6336312**

**U.S. UTILITY Patent Application**

O.L.P.E. Q.L.P.E. SCANNED <i>9/14</i> <i>aa</i> <i>Cc</i>	PATENT DATE JAN 03 2002
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APPLICATION NO. 097640577	CONT/PRIOR 0	CLASS 050	SUBCLASS 6	ART UNIT 367.1	EXAMINER Pezzuolo
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**SLAVONIA**



311

FTO-2040  
12/98

ISSUING CLASSIFICATION									
ORIGINAL			CROSS REFERENCE(S)						
CLASS		SUBCLASS	CLASS	SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)					
56		6	56	13-6					
INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION									
4010	34/66								

☐ Continued on Issue Slip inside File Jacket

12/11/01 Formal Drawings (18 sheets) set 1 8/22/00

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>TERMINAL DISCLAIMER</b>	<b>DRAWINGS</b>			<b>CLAIMS ALLOWED</b>	
	Sheets Drwg. <i>18</i>	Figs. Drwg. <i>24</i>	Print Fig. <i>7</i>	Total Claims <i>27</i>	Print Claim for O.G. <i>1</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> The term of this patent subsequent to _____ (date) has been disclaimed.  <input type="checkbox"/> The term of this patent shall not extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent. No. _____   	 _____ (Assistant Examiner) (Date)			<b>NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE MAILED</b>  <i>9-28-01</i>	
	 <b>ROBERT E. PEZZUTO</b> <b>PRIMARY EXAMINER</b> <i>and Unit 241</i> _____ (Primary Examiner) (Date)			<b>ISSUE FEE</b> <i>GW</i>  Amount Due Date Paid <i>1240</i> <i>11-27-01</i>	
				<b>ISSUE BATCH NUMBER</b>  <i>M74</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> The terminal _____ months of this patent have been disclaimed.	<i>P. Washington</i> _____ (Legal Notice Examiner) (Date)				
<b>WARNING:</b> The information disclosed herein may be restricted. Unauthorized disclosure may be prohibited by the United States Code Title 35, Sections 122, 181 and 368. Possession outside the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office is restricted to authorized employees and contractors only.					

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(Rev. 5/99)

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Form 1041-28 (\_\_\_\_\_) 1981

ISSUE : 401E

(FACE)

JA - 0338

PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 8-643697

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
FEE RECORD SHEET

*fee m #3*

PTO-1556  
(5/87)

\*U.S. GPO: 1989-459-082/19144

JA - 0339



Page . of 1



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 COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
 UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231  
 www.uspto.gov


Bib Data Sheet

CONFIRMATION NO. 1148

SERIAL NUMBER 09/643,697	FILING DATE 08/22/2000 RULE	CLASS 056	GROUP ART UNIT 3671	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 7016R-000015/CPB
APPLICANTS Richard D. Bednar, Johnson Creek, WI; <i>Randal S. Knauer, Waterford, WI.</i>				
** CONTINUING DATA ** THIS APPLICATION IS A CIP OF 09/546,145 04/10/2000 WHICH IS A CON OF 08/794,141 02/03/1997 PAT 6,047,530 <i>3.oh</i>				
** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS ** <i>— none</i>				
IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED ** 10/11/2000				
Foreign Priority claimed <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no 35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no met <i>Allowable</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Met after		STATE OR COUNTRY WI	SHEETS DRAWING 18	TOTAL CLAIMS 27
Verified and Acknowledged Examiner's Signature <i>[Signature]</i> Initials		INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3		
ADDRESS Harness Dickey & Pierce PLC PO Box 826 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303				
TITLE Gang-Type rotary lawn mower with multiple rear rollers				
FILING FEE RECEIVED 966	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:		<input type="checkbox"/> All Fees	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 1.16 Fees ( Filing )	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 1.17 Fees ( Processing Ext. of time )	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 1.18 Fees ( Issue )	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Other, _____	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Credit	

JA - 0340





NEW, CONTINUATION, DIVISIONAL OR  
CONTINUATION-IN-PART APPLICATION  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b)

Attorney Docket No. 7016R-000015/CPB

Express Mail Label No. EL581390395US

Date August 22, 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) is a patent application for

GANG-TYPE ROTARY LAWN MOWER

identified by: ☐ First named inventor  
or ☒ Attorney Docket No. (see above)

1. Type of Application

☐ This application is a new (non-continuing) application.

☒ This application is a ☐ continuation / ☐ divisional / ☒ continuation-in-part of prior application No. 09/546,145. Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

☐ The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied, is considered part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

If for some reason applicant has not requested a sufficient extension of time in the parent application, and/or has not paid a sufficient fee for any necessary response in the parent application and/or for the extension of time necessary to prevent the abandonment of the parent application prior to the filing of this application, please consider this as a Request for an Extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any fee that may be due. THIS FORM IS BEING FILED IN TRIPLICATE: one copy for this application; one copy for use in connection with the Deposit Account (if applicable); and one copy for the above-mentioned parent application (if any extension of time is necessary).

2. Contents of Application

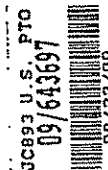
a. Specification of 26 pages including a Title Page;

- ☐ A microfiche computer program (Appendix);
- ☐ A nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence submission;

☐ Because the enclosed application is in a non-English language, a verified English translation ☐ is enclosed ☐ will be filed.

☐ Cancel original claims of the prior application before calculating the filing fee. (At least one original independent claim must be retained for filing date purposes.)

b. ☒ Drawings on 18 sheets;



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Date August 22, 2000

- c. ☒ An unsigned Oath/Declaration ☒ is enclosed / ☐ will be filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.53(f).

The enclosed Oath/Declaration is ☐ newly executed ☐ a copy from a prior application under 37 C.F.R. §1.63(d) / ☐ accompanied by a statement requesting the deletion of person(s) not inventors in the continuing application.

## d. Fees

FILING FEE	Number	Number	Basic Fee
CALCULATION	Filed	Extra	Rate
			\$690.00
Total Claims	27 - 20 =	7 x	\$18.00 =
Independent Claims	3 - 3 =	0 x	\$78.00 =
Multiple Dependent Claim(s) Used			\$260.00 =
FILING FEE - NON-SMALL ENTITY			\$816.00
FILING FEE - SMALL ENTITY: Reduction by 1/2			
<input type="checkbox"/> Verified Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.27 is enclosed.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Verified Statement filed in prior application.			
Assignment Recordal Fee (\$40.00)			
37 C.F.R. §1.17(k) Fee (non-English application)			
TOTAL			\$816.00

- ☐ A check is enclosed to cover the calculated fees. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

- ☒ The calculated fees will be paid within the time allotted for completion of the filing requirements.

- ☐ The calculated fees are to be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

## 3. Priority Information

- ☐ Foreign Priority: Priority based on \_\_\_\_\_ Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, is claimed.

- ☐ A copy of the above referenced priority document ☐ is enclosed / ☐ will be filed in due course, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d).

- ☐ Provisional Application Priority: Priority based on United States Provisional Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119(e).

Sheet 2 of 3

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Attorney Docket No. 7016R-000015/CPB

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Date August 22, 2000

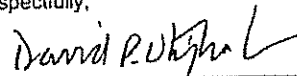
4. Other Submissions

- ☐ A Preliminary Amendment is enclosed.
- ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement, \_\_\_\_\_ sheets of PTO Form 1449, and \_\_\_\_\_ patent(s)/publications/documents are enclosed.
- ☐ A power of attorney
- ☐ is submitted ☐ with the new Oath/Declaration.
- ☐ is of record in the prior application and ☐ is in the original papers / ☐ a copy is enclosed.
- ☐ An Assignment of the invention
- ☐ is enclosed with a cover sheet pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§3.11, 3.28 and 3.31.
- ☐ is of record in a prior application. The assignment is \_\_\_\_\_ and is recorded at Reel \_\_\_\_\_, Frame(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ An Establishment of Assignee's Right To Prosecute Application Under 37 C.F.R. §3.73(b), and Power Of Attorney is enclosed.
- ☒ An Express Mailing Certificate is enclosed.
- ☒ Other: Return Postcard.

Attention is directed to the fact that the correspondence address for this application is:

Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.  
P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
(248) 641-1600.

Respectfully,



Date 8/22/00  
Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.  
P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
(248) 641-1600

David P. Utykanski, Reg. No. 39,052  
Donald G. Walker, Reg. No. 44,390

DPU/DGW/vle

Sheet 3 of 3

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EXPRESS MAIL NO.  
EL 581 390 395 US

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

of

RICHARD D. BEDNAR

a citizen of the United States of America  
residing at  
N6804 Shorewood Hills Road  
Lake Mills, Wisconsin 53551

for a new and useful invention entitled

GANG-TYPE ROTARY LAWN MOWER

and  
Assigned To:

TEXTRON, INC.  
40 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Prepared by:

HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
P.O. BOX 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
(248) 641-1600

Attorney Docket No. 7016R-000015/CPB

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TELEFACSIMILE  
(248) 641-0270

August 22, 2000

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

EXPRESS MAILING CERTIFICATE

Applicant: Richard D. Bednar  
Serial No.: To be designated  
For: GANG-TYPE ROTARY LAWN MOWER  
Docket: 7016R-000015/CPB  
Attorney: David P. Utykanski  
"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number .....EL581390395US  
Date of Deposit..... August 22, 2000

I hereby certify and verify that the accompanying return postcard, Transmittal Letter (in triplicate); 26-page patent application including Title Page with attached (unsigned) 2-page Declaration and Power of Attorney; 18 sheets of drawings showing Figures 1-24 are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is (are) addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

*Vivian L. Erznosnik*  
Vivian L. Erznosnik

JA - 0345

Attorney Dr t No. 7016R-000015/CPB

**GANG-TYPE ROTARY LAWN MOWER**

*with multiple  
cone rollers*

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This patent application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/546,145, filed April 10, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/794,141, filed February 3, 1997, now Patent No. 6,047,530, issued April 11, 2000.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to rotary lawn mowers and to gang-type lawn mowers. Historically, reel mowers have been used to cut golf course roughs. It is generally recognized that rotary mowers are better suited for cutting tall grass, where scalping is not a problem, while reel mowers are better for shorter cutting. A gang of reels can be either attached directly to the frame on which the operator rides, or pulled behind a tractor. Pull-behind or tow-behind rotary gangs are also known. These can be driven either by a power takeoff or by a separate engine. Tow-behind gangs, whether reel or rotary, are generally undesirable for cutting a golf course rough because close trimming is difficult. Thus, rotary mowers have not been used to cut golf course roughs, which require close trimming and the ability to cut undulating terrain at a relatively short length.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides a gang-type rotary lawn mower suitable for cutting a golf course rough. This is a tremendous improvement over the known prior art, because a rotary mower typically requires substantially less maintenance than a reel mower. The lawn mower has single-spindle cutting

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decks attached directly to the frame on which the operator rides, with a front row of two or more cutting decks in front of the front wheels, and with a rear row of one or more cutting decks between the front and rear wheels. The invention also provides an improved arrangement for mounting a rotary cutting deck on a lawn mower frame. Each deck is mounted on its own lifting arm so that the deck can move vertically relative to the frame and can pivot relative to the frame about three mutually perpendicular axes.

More particularly, the invention provides a gang-type rotary lawn mower comprising a frame supported by front and rear wheels, an operator's seat mounted on the frame, at least two side-by-side front cutting deck assemblies mounted on the frame in front of the front wheels, and at least one rear cutting deck assembly mounted on the frame behind the front wheels and in front of the rear wheels. Each of the front and rear deck assemblies includes a pair of laterally-spaced, generally vertically-extending side plates, front wheels supporting the side plates for movement over the ground, and a rear roller extending between the side plates and supporting the side plates for movement over the ground. Each deck assembly also includes a single-spindle cutting deck located between the side plates and in front of the roller, the deck being mounted on the side plates such that the height of the deck relative to the ground is adjustable. The roller extends across substantially the entire width of the deck. The roller resists scalping and stripes the grass, both of which are aesthetically desirable.

Each deck assembly is connected to the frame by a generally L-shaped, horizontally-extending lifting arm operable to lift the deck assembly relative to the frame. Each deck assembly is connected to the frame by its

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own lifting arm. Each lifting arm has an inner end pivotally connected to the frame. A cross member is mounted on the outer end of the lifting arm for pivotal movement about a generally vertical axis and about a generally horizontal axis extending in the forward-rearward direction. One end of the cross member is connected to one of the deck assembly side plates for pivotal movement about a generally horizontal, laterally-extending axis adjacent the forward ends of the side plates, and the other end of the cross member is connected to the other side plate for pivotal movement about the same axis.

10 This construction enables the lawn mower to cut the undulating terrain of a golf course rough and to be controlled for close trimming. Also, as mentioned above, the lawn mower requires much less maintenance than the reel mowers historically used to cut a golf course rough.

15 Other features and advantages of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon review of the following detailed description, claims and drawings.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a top plan view of a lawn mower embodying the invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a cutting deck assembly;

20 FIG. 3 is a top plan view of the cutting deck assembly;

FIG. 4 is a side elevational view of the cutting deck assembly;

FIG. 5 is a rear elevational view of the cutting deck assembly;

FIG. 6 is a view taken along line 6--6 in FIG. 3;



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FIG. 7 is a top plan view of another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 8 is a top plan view of another embodiment of the present invention;

5 FIG. 9 is a top plan view of a cutter assembly of the present invention;

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of a lifting arm and cutting deck interconnection;

FIG. 11 is a top plan view of an alternate embodiment cutter deck assembly;

10 FIG. 12 is a top plan view of a three-wheeled lawn mower embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 13 is a top plan view of a cutter assembly having a segmented roller assembly;

FIG. 14 is a top plan view of another embodiment of a cutter assembly;

15 FIG. 15 is a top plan view of another cutter assembly embodiment;

FIG. 16 is a partial top plan view of an alternate embodiment lawn mower;

FIG. 17 is a partial top plan view of another alternate embodiment lawn mower;

20 FIG. 18 is a partial top plan view of another alternate embodiment lawn mower;

FIG. 19 is a top plan view of a cutter assembly having a plurality of front caster wheels;

25 FIG. 20 is a top plan view of a cutter assembly having a "V" shaped rear roller assembly;

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FIG. 21 is a top plan view of a cutter assembly having a plurality of front and rear caster wheels;

FIG. 22 is a top plan view of another embodiment of a cutter assembly;

FIG. 23 is a top plan view of another embodiment of a cutter assembly;

5 and

FIG. 24 is a top plan view of another cutter assembly embodiment.

Before certain embodiments of the invention are explained in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of the construction and the arrangements of components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced or being carried out in various ways. Also, it is understood that the phraseology and terminology used herein is for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

#### 15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

A lawn mower 10 embodying the invention is illustrated in FIG. 1. Except as described below, the lawn mower 10 is identical to the lawn mower disclosed in U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/787,384, filed Jan. 22, 1997, titled "PARALLEL-SERIES FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE HYDRAULIC CIRCUIT FOR A RIDING LAWN MOWER" and assigned to the assignee hereof. The lawn mower 10 comprises a frame 12 (partially shown in FIGS. 2-5) supported by front wheels 14 and rear wheels 16 for movement over the ground. While the illustrated lawn mower 10 is rear-steering and has four-wheel drive, it